

Shock jock Howard Stern rules weekend box office with 'Private Parts' biopic

By Lynn Elber
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES - The self-proclaimed "King of all Media" Howard Stern was also king of the weekend box office.

After a promotional blitz that saw Stern on magazine covers and TV talk shows, Stern's autobiographical comedy "Private Parts" led movie ticket sales with \$14.6 million.

The film ended the domination of George Lucas' re-released space adventures, "Star Wars" and "The Empire Strikes Back," which had combined to shut new films out of the No. 1 spot for five weeks.

Rob Friedman, vice chairman of the Paramount Promotion Picture Group, said the success of "Private Parts," with a star known for his raunchiness, was not assured. "Believe me, we saw it as a risk," he said.

In second place was "Jungle 2 Jungle," which earned \$12.8 million in its debut. The film drew mixed reviews but had the advantage of Tim Allen's connection with his popular ABC-TV sitcom "Home Improvement."

"The Empire Strikes Back" (1980) dropped to No. 3 in its third week with grosses of \$8 million. "Star Wars" (1977) remained vigorous with \$3.9 million in its sixth week, coming in at No. 6 for the week.

Together, "Star Wars" and "Empire" have grossed more than \$182 million in re-issue. Both movies are expected to be in theaters when "Return of the Jedi" is re-released on Friday.

The top 20 movies at North American theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by



studio, gross, number of theater locations, receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled by Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc.:

1. "Private Parts," Paramount, \$14.6 million, 2,138 locations, \$6,836 average, \$14.6 million, one week.
2. "Jungle 2 Jungle," Disney, \$12.8 million, 2,316 locations, \$5,532 average, \$12.8 million, one week.
3. "The Empire Strikes Back," Fox, \$8 million, 2,116 locations, \$3,804 average, \$51.7 million, three weeks.
4. "Donnie Brasco," Sony, \$7.8 million, 1,593 locations, \$4,916 average, \$23.4 million, two weeks.
5. "Booby Call," Sony, \$4.1 million, 1,272 locations, \$3,193 average, \$13.8 million, two weeks.
6. "Star Wars," Fox, \$3.9 million, 2,037 locations, \$1,912 average, \$130.6 million, six weeks.
7. "Absolute Power," Sony, \$3.7 million, 2,816 locations, \$1,318 average, \$42.1 million, four weeks.
8. "Dante's Peak," Universal, \$3.2 million, 2,279 locations, \$1,415 average, \$56.8 million, five weeks.
9. "Vegas Vacation," \$2.39

million, 1,873 locations, \$1,274 average, \$30.6 million, four weeks.

10. "Marvin's Room," Miramax, \$2.37 million, 1,158 locations, \$2,043 average, \$8.7 million, 12 weeks.
11. "Fools Rush In," Sony, \$2.3 million, 1,701 locations, \$1,353 average, \$24.6 million, four weeks.
12. "Jerry Maguire," Sony, \$2.2 million, 1,174 locations, \$1,834 average, \$138 million, 13 weeks.
13. "The English Patient," Miramax, \$2 million, 1,004 locations, \$1,999 average, \$57.5 million, 17 weeks.
14. "Shine," Fine Line, \$1.9 million, 991 locations, \$1,962 average, \$28.8 million, 16 weeks.
15. "Rosewood," Warner, \$1.8

million, 841 locations, \$2,097 average, \$9.8 million, three weeks.

16. "Sling Blade," Miramax, \$1.3 million, 268 locations, \$4,742 average, \$4.8 million, 15 weeks.
17. "Scream," Miramax, \$1 million, 806 locations, \$1,256 average, \$84.7 million, 12 weeks.
18. "That Darn Cat," Disney, \$913,700, 1,643 locations, \$556 average, \$15.6 million, four weeks.
19. "Rhyme & Reason," Miramax, \$853,600, 280 locations, \$3,049 average, \$1.1 million, one week.
20. "Michael," New Line, \$844,000, 1,007 locations, \$838 average, \$88.5 million, 11 weeks.

What's Up



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If you have information about black entertainment events, meetings, lectures or any other events of interest, send it to What's Up! The Charlotte Post, 1531 Camden Road, Charlotte, N.C. 28203. Deadline is 5 p.m. Fridays.

Death Row founder says he's not linked to death

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES - Calling the late rapper Tupac Shakur his best friend, Death Row Records co-founder Marion "Suge" Knight said it was "crazy" to speculate that he had anything to do with Shakur's death in Las Vegas.

"I loved Pac then. I love Pac now. He loved me. That's my little homey and it's always going to be that way, you know, and nothing's going to change that," Knight said in his first jailhouse interview with Fox's TV show "America's Most Wanted."

Last month, Knight was sentenced to nine years in prison for violating his 1995 probation.

The judge said Knight violated his probation by taking part in a fight at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas hotel on Sept. 7. Hours later, Shakur was shot in a drive-by attack as he rode in Knight's car. Shakur died six days later. Knight was struck in the head. The case remains unsolved.

"September 7th is a part of history. It's a sad day. It's an educational day," Knight told the TV show in an episode broadcast Saturday night.

Asked about rumors that Shakur was going to leave the rap label, Knight said there was no friction between he and Shakur.

"If you look at any interview that Tupac did, if you look at any video, any TV show he did, one thing he always did was praise Death Row and me and him praised each other," Knight said.

Common sense should tell homicide investigators that he didn't shoot Shakur, Knight said.

"Just shoot me in my head, make sure you hit me in my head for it can look good. That's crazy," he said.

Knight said police have already questioned the man he believes is responsible for the shooting.

Knight also defended his actions just after the shooting. He immediately made a u-turn, away from any hospital.

"How many people you know, would get shot in the head, where it fractures their skull, and instead of just taking off driving and thinking about their buddy to make sure they're alright, do you think any person who got shot in the head is going to say, 'Well, lemme see the quickest way to get to the hospital?' The average person I think would be dead."

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